

Message Text

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61

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 L-03 H-02 DHA-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02

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R 261234Z FEB 76

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4273

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

C O N F I D E N T I A L NEW DELHI 2926

FOLLOWING SENT ACTION NEW DELHI INFO BOMBAY, DACCA AND MADRAS
FEB 26, 1976 REPEATED FOR YOU

QUOTE

CALCUTTA 0500

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, CASC, IN

SUBJ: BREAKOUT OF NAXALITE PRISONERS FROM CALCUTTA JAIL

REF: CALCUTTA 0492

1. WE NOW HAVE CONFIRMATION OF AND FURTHER DTAILS ON
FEBRUARY 24 BREAKOUT FROM PRESIDENCY JAIL, FROM A
CRIMINAL LAWYER CLOSE TO THE POLICE.

2. SOURCE SAYS ARMS AND AMMUNITION WERE SMUGGLED INTO
PRISONERS PRIOR TO THE BREAKOUT. SHORTLY AFTER NOON
FEBRUARY 24 THREE VERY WELL DRESSED MEN ENTERED THE PRISON
AS VISITORS, THREW HAND GRENADES AND DREW WEAPONS. IN
THE ENSUING BATTLE SIX PRISON GUARDS AND CENTRAL RESERVE
POLICE WERE KILLED AND MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED GUARDS,
POLICE, AND PRISONERS WERE WOUNDED. SOURCE CONFIRMS
THAT THE NUMBER OF ESCAPEES WAS ABOUT SIXTY AND SAYS THUS
FAR ONLY TWO HAVE BEEN RECAPTURED. SAYS THE ESCAPEES FLED
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IN SIX OR SEVEN JEEPS THAT WERE WAITING NEARBY TO TAKE

THEM AWAY.

3. IF ALL THIS IS TRUE OR ANYWHERE NEAR SO, IT IS OBVIOUS THAT THE BREAKOUT WAS WELL PLANNED AND ORGANIZED AND THAT THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR IT COMMAND CONSIDERABLE RESOURCES, AND IT WOULD APPEAR THAT POLICE HAVE SERIOUSLY UNDERESTIMATED NAXALITE STRENGTH. OF COURSE, THERE IS NOT RPT NOT EVEN A HINT OF WORD OF THE BREAKOUT IN THE PRESS, ALTHOUGH FACT THAT SOMETHING HAPPENED AT PRESIDENCY JAIL EARLY AFTERNOON FEBRUARY 24 IS FAIRLY WIDELY KNOWN HERE BECAUSE PEOPLE IN NEARBY AREAS HEARD THE FIRING.

4. FOR THE RECORD, THERE ARE NO AMERICANS IN PRESIDENCY OR ANY OTHER CALCUTTA JAIL. SIGNED KORN
UNQUOTE
SAXBE

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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